

# **Seattle Department of Transportation Urban Forestry**



**Proposed Street Tree Ordinance  
Public Meetings  
December 2011 – February 2012**





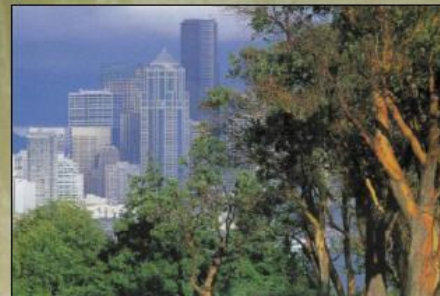


APRIL 2007



City of Seattle

## Urban Forest Management Plan



# Urban Forest Management Plan

- Initiated by Strategic Plan produced by Cascadia Consulting in 2001.
- Plan was offered by then Mayor Nickels in 2007 – established canopy goals
- Urban Forest Commission established in 2009



























## *Focus Group and review*

- Proposed changes would replace ordinance #90047, which was last revised in February of 1961.
- Initial input for the proposed ordinance was received from a focus group.
- Reviewed by the City Attorney's office and the Urban Forestry Commission.



# Tree protection

**CURRENT:** Street Use Ordinance calls only for preserving trees but provides no detail.

## **PROPOSED :**

- Makes it illegal to damage or destroy any street tree
- Regulates attachment of holiday lights
- Prohibits topping, spurring, attaching signs or objects
- Prohibits placement of construction debris adjacent to trees
- Regulates the storage of materials adjacent to right-of-way trees
- Tree protection standards are listed in Street Tree Manual

# *Many ways to damage trees*





# *Damage to Tree Roots*





# *Tree protection required*





# Permitting

**CURRENT:** Require permits to plant, prune or remove a street tree. No requirement to replace a street tree.

## **PROPOSED :**

- Describes the process & procedures for applying for a permit
- Defines criteria for granting planting, pruning or removal permits
- Establishes authority to require a replacement tree when a removal permit is granted
- Allows minor pruning of 2" inch diameter limbs or less without a permit.

## *Tree maintenance*

**CURRENT:** Does not define responsibility for maintenance of right-of-way trees. Abutting property owner is responsible for maintenance of the planting strip.

### **PROPOSED :**

- Clarifies SDOT & property owner responsibilities for tree maintenance
- Gives city authority to perform emergency work on privately owned ROW trees
- Establishes criteria by which a tree can be deemed a public nuisance
- Retains SDOT's authority to order the maintenance of a right-of-way tree to ensure public safety.





# Arborist Certification

**CURRENT:** Does not require any specific qualifications for companies performing tree work or standards for work performed by them.

## **PROPOSED :**

- Requires maintenance work to be performed by or supervised by an ISA certified arborist
- Requires tree care firms to register with SDOT and establishes requirements for registration
- Allows a property owner to perform minor pruning without a permit
- Requires a permit for major pruning by property owner
- Requires tree work to meet industry standards.



# *Licensed and Insured????*



# *Penalties and Fines*

**CURRENT:** Inadequate penalties for illegal tree work on privately maintained trees.

**PROPOSED :**

- Identifies illegal activities related to the treatment of trees
- Establishes penalties for damaging or destroying trees that may include the appraised value of the tree.



# *Next Steps*

## **1 Meeting schedule**

**SEPA checklist will be available for review**

## **2 Comment period ends Feb 29, 2012**

**SDOT response to comments by Mar 15, 2012**

**Period may be lengthened depending on volume of input.**

## **3 Final draft to UFC, Mayor & Council**

## **4 Council hearing and adoption**

## **5 Possible waiting period before registration implementation.**

**SDOT proposes to work with ISA to provide training opportunities for tree service providers.**

**[www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com)**

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### Submit Feedback

SDOT Urban Forestry will respond to all comments that are formally submitted through this web page or by mailing to:

*Street Tree Ordinance  
Attn: Urban Forestry  
P.O. Box 34996  
Seattle, WA 98124-4996*

If you would like to provide comments regarding the Draft Street Tree ordinance or the Street Tree Manual Standards and Specification, please complete the information below:

**Name:**

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